

### Statement & argument

The claims for Hybrid Trading System are based on an original application submitted in August 2000. The invention requires integration of two important aspects of trade into the matching process as noted in the claims. Firstly, in a continuous double-sided auction the matching can not be completed without prior risk assessment and means of its compensation by immediate fund availability. Hence cash management is incorporated into the system

Secondly, the ability of intermediary (the agents) to maintain market liquidity necessitates that matching and clearing of trade take place almost simultaneously. Thirdly, the back- end process of transaction (prior to order confirmation) requires settlement within 24 hours to minimize intermediary's risk. If the final settlement entails actual physical delivery, shipping documents must be exchanged electronically against fund transfer (from Fiduciary to seller). In short, the heart of this application is seamless integration of various disciplines and claims 1, 9 and 14, were envisaged to represent independent tasks providing an efficient trading platform.

### Response Summary-

The issue of distinct and related claims have been studied in light of guidance described under 37 C.F.R., 35 U.S.C, MPEP and Classifications. The following response is based on concurrence with claims 1, 9 and 14 being distinct from each other and subsequently claims 9 and 14 are withdrawn. Claim 10, however, is amended as sub combination of claim 1, whereupon claims 11, 12 and 13 will be sub-sub- combination of claim 1. Similarly, claim 15 is amended as sub combination of claim 1.

With respect to the issue of unnecessary sub combination claims, the claims 3, 17 and 18 are cancelled.